

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-20 have been rejected per 35 USC 102, 35 USC 103. Please cancel claims 1-20 and ADD new claims 21-25.

Claims 1-20 (CANCELED)

21. (NEW) A cone-clip racquet pick device comprising:

a shaft comprising a conical tip at a first end thereof, wherein the conical tip is of a size and configuration suitable to allow the conical tip to be inserted into a space between strings of a stringed racquet utilized in a sporting activity, functioning to widen the space to a previously-determined degree, to align the strings of the stringed racquet to maintain the integrity thereof, an upper portion of the shaft comprising a friction grip thereon;

a clip rigidly attached to an upper portion of the shaft and extending a previously-determined length downwardly therefrom, the clip functioning to allow the device to be removably affixed to an article of clothing, the clip comprising an aperture thereon, which functions to allow the cone-clip racquet pick to be removably affixed to a key ring or string; and

a generally annular flared portion located at a middle portion of the shaft and extending outwardly therefrom, the flared portion functioning to stop the device from movement into the space beyond a previously-determined degree.

22. (NEW) The cone-clip racquet pick as described in claim 21, wherein the device is constructed entirely of plastic.

23. (NEW) The cone-clip racquet pick as described in claim 21, wherein the device bears previously determined text, graphics, designs, and colors thereon.

24. (NEW) The cone-clip racquet pick as described in claim 21, wherein the device is approximately three inches in height.

25. (NEW) A method of utilizing the cone-clip racquet pick described in claim 21, comprising the steps of:

a user holding the cone-clip racquet pick stationary in one hand, and holding a stringed racquet utilized in a sporting activity in the other hand,

the user placing the racquet onto the cone-clip racquet pick such that the cone-clip racquet pick is inserted into a desired space between strings of the racquet,

the user moving the racquet in a back and forth manner, widening the space to a previously-determined degree, to align the strings of the racquet to maintain the integrity thereof,

the generally annular flared portion of the cone-clip racquet pick functioning to stop the device from movement into the space beyond a previously-determined degree, and further functioning to protect the hand of the user while utilizing the cone-clip racquet pick.